GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:70
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Wildlife Crimes
Bohara Shri Ramcharan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has collaborated with its neighbouring countries to combat wildlife crimes and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the details of major initiatives taken by the Government under the aegis of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN);
(c) the objectives of SAWEN and achievements made so far in this regard;
(d) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred so far under SAWEN; and
(e) whether any public participation has been envisaged under SAWEN and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*70 REGARDING "WILDLIFE CRIMES" BY SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA DUE FOR REPLY ON 07.02.2017

(a)Yes, Sir. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is conducting bilateral meetings with the neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal for exchange of information and coordination in matters related to combating wildlife crimes. A list of meeting held during the last one year is at Annexure.

(b)The Cabinet Committee has approved the proposal of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for adoption of the Statute of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) on 13th April 2016. However, the SAWEN is yet to be operationalized.

(c) The objectives of the SAWEN are as below:

i. To take initiative for bringing harmonization and standardization in laws and policies of member countries concerning conservation of fauna and flora;
ii. To document the trend of poaching and illegal trade and related threats to the natural biodiversity within and across countries in the region;
iii. To strengthen institutional responses to combat wildlife crime by promoting research and information sharing, training and capacity building, technical support, sharing experience and outreach; and
iv. To encourage members countries to prepared and implement their National Action Plans in curbing wildlife crime and to collaborate towards effective implementation.

They are no visible achievements as SAWEN is yet to become operational. However, on endorsement of five out of eight member countries in 2016, the SAWEN has become a legitimate inter-governmental organization in South Asia, although secretariat has not been operational.

(d)The Government of Nepal has committed support of USD 1,00,000 for SAWEN.

(e) The statute of SAWEN contains the institutional arrangement for functioning of the network, its objectives and role of member countries and does not have specific provisions for public participations. However, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, which is the principal focal point of SAWEN in India, has organized various events with public participation to stop illegal traffic of wildlife and wildlife crimes in the country through awareness and education campaigns for various stakeholders.

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